

IDOT Seeks Public Input on DBE Goal-Setting Process

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has established its overall Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for the participation by DBEs in highway construction and consulting engineering projects for Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2013 - 2014 which starts October 1, 2012.

As part of the goal-setting process, IDOT is required to have public input. A meeting has been scheduled to seek comment on IDOT's overall aspiration goal of 22.77 percent DBE participants for FFY 2013 – 2014. The meeting will be held at the IDOT's Hanley Building Auditorium, located at 2300 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois 62764 on **Wednesday, July 18, 2012 from 12:00PM to 3:00PM.**

The type of information sought from participants at this meeting includes: 1) input/comment on IDOT's overall goal, 2) individual experiences regarding past and current discriminatory practices that place racial and ethnic minorities and women in a position of social and economic disadvantage in successfully participating on IDOT contracts, and 3) comment on IDOT's DBE goal document.

The DBE goal document is available for review at IDOT's Regional Offices, its DBE Resource Centers and at http://www.dot.il.gov/sbe/dbe_goals.htm.



Illinois Department of Transportation

Diversity Matters!

JULY 2012

Tuskegee Airmen Honored at Ethics in Workplace Seminar

On June 26, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) held its Ethics in the Workplace Seminar in Chicago to educate employees about the benefits of making good ethical decisions and the consequences of making bad ones. During the seminar, the Tuskegee Airmen, Chicago "DODO" Chapter, was recognized for their excellence, unity, and determination. Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider and Chief of Staff

Marva Boyd, challenged state employees to practice the highest level of integrity, leadership, and courage in their roles, even during tough circumstances just like the Tuskegee Airmen.

The Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II (WWII). Secretary Schneider also urged everyone at the seminar to continue to

celebrate the heritage and historical legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and use their story of determination and perseverance as inspiration to overcome adversity and challenges to better serve the citizens of Illinois.

Also during the event, the Tuskegee Airmen shared special stories and reflected about their aviation experiences during WWII.

Potential High-Speed Rail Project Opportunities on the Horizon

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is reminding Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) and sub-consultants interested in possible rail project work to begin checking the official IDOT Illinois High-Speed Rail website under the "Doing Business" tab at <http://www.idothsr.org>, for important updates. After July 22, a list of prequalified prime contractors who will have the opportunity to bid on the most current high-speed rail project will be posted at this web address. Once this list of prequalified prime contractors is available on the website, sub-consultants and DBE's will

then have the opportunity to market their services by contacting the prequalified prime contractors for their potential inclusion in the current bidding opportunity.

IDOT and the Union Pacific Railroad understand that a contractor's work experience changes and grows over time, which is why contractors will be required to prequalify for each and every new high-speed rail opportunity.

IDOT fosters equal opportunity for minority-owned, women-owned and other DBEs in IDOT's federal and state-funded contracts.

If you have questions regarding construction opportunities and processes, please leave a message on the project toll-free line, 1-855-IDOT-HSR (436-8477), or contact Miriam Gutierrez via email at Miriam.Gutierrez@illinois.gov.

For more information regarding other IDOT opportunities for minority-owned, women-owned and other disadvantaged small businesses in IDOT's federal and state funded highway, transit and airport contracts, contact Vittorio M. Gomez at (312)793-3960, or by email at Vittorio.Gomez@illinois.gov.

For more details on diversity related topics, visit the "Diversity Matters!" website at <http://www.diversity.dot.illinois.gov/default.aspx>

Engineer Technician Training Program Under Way

The Engineer Technician (ET) is an integral part of the engineering teams at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). These technicians are able to perform basic assignments, such as operating surveying equipment and performing related mathematical computations, as well as preparing working drawings from rough drafts or notes, performing basic project inspections and investigations, and conducting field and laboratory tests.

The Engineer Technician Training Program (ETTP) began in 2010, to provide a pipeline for qualified, diverse entry-level

applicants for the engineer technician position. IDOT has partnered this year with Joliet Junior College (JJC) and the College of Lake County to provide a “boot-camp” type of technical training program. Upon successful completion of this training program, students receive college credit, a certificate of completion, and the opportunity to interview for ET I positions at IDOT.

“With the support of IDOT management and the efforts of the IDOT recruitment team, I am confident we will be successful in increasing the diversity of our

workforce to more closely mirror the diverse population of our great state,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider.

Joliet Junior College began the training program on April 9, and is expected to end on July 21. Ten of the 13 program participants from JJC represent diverse populations. The College of Lake County (CLC) began its ETTP on April 23, and is expected to end on August 18. Thirteen of the 14 participants at CLC represent diverse populations.

Update on Illinois Department of Transportation Summer Program

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) hired a total number of 356 summer workers this year, 232 of which were non-engineering students and 124 engineering students. IDOT’s Summer Program is designed to give engineering and non-engineering students an opportunity to gain on-the-job training and supplement IDOT staff during the busiest project season of the year. IDOT has been inclusive and proactive in hiring qualified minorities and women to mirror the population of the state of Illinois. Just this year, for the Technical Trainee Program (non-engineering), out of 232 students that were hired statewide, 111 of them are females and 54 are minorities. Similarly, for the Engineering Technician I Program, out of 124 engineering students hired, 16 of them are females and 16 are minorities. The summer program ends August 31, 2012.

Mississippi River Bridge Project Snapshot

One of the goals of the Mississippi River Bridge (MRB) project is to create a diverse job site contractor workforce. For the week of June 17-23, 2012, there was an overall workforce of 21.5% minorities and 4.9% female on the MRB project. For more information, visit <http://www.newriverbridge.org/>.

Office of Business and Workforce Diversity Newsletter Coming July 2012

Please keep an enthusiastic eye open for the 2012 edition of the Office of Business and Workforce Diversity’s (OBWD) newsletter “Diversity” published in July 2012. The “Diversity” newsletter highlights the programs and services of IDOT’s OBWD and informs the public of up-to-date legislative endeavors and strives to keep the DBE community at-large informed of critical information such as certification standard changes and Target Market initiatives. The OBWD newsletters can be retrieved from IDOT’s website at <http://www.dot.il.gov/obwd/newsletters.html>.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
7/11	Joliet Veterans Job Fair 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.	Joliet VFW, 826 Horseshoe Dr., Joliet, IL 60435	Tomas J Gutierrez vopinfo@v-o-p.org
7/26	2012 Hiring Our Heroes Glen Ellyn	College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd. Glen Ellyn, IL	Cornel Thomas Cornel.thomas@illinois.gov

For a complete list of events, visit http://www.diversity.dot.illinois.gov/event_calendar.aspx

IDOT Announces Current Procurement Opportunities

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announces current procurement opportunities open for bid. To find a full list of opportunities, potential vendors can visit the Illinois Procurement Bulletin at www.purchase.state.il.us.

Questions/Comments: DOT.Diversity@illinois.gov